RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

October, 1994

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

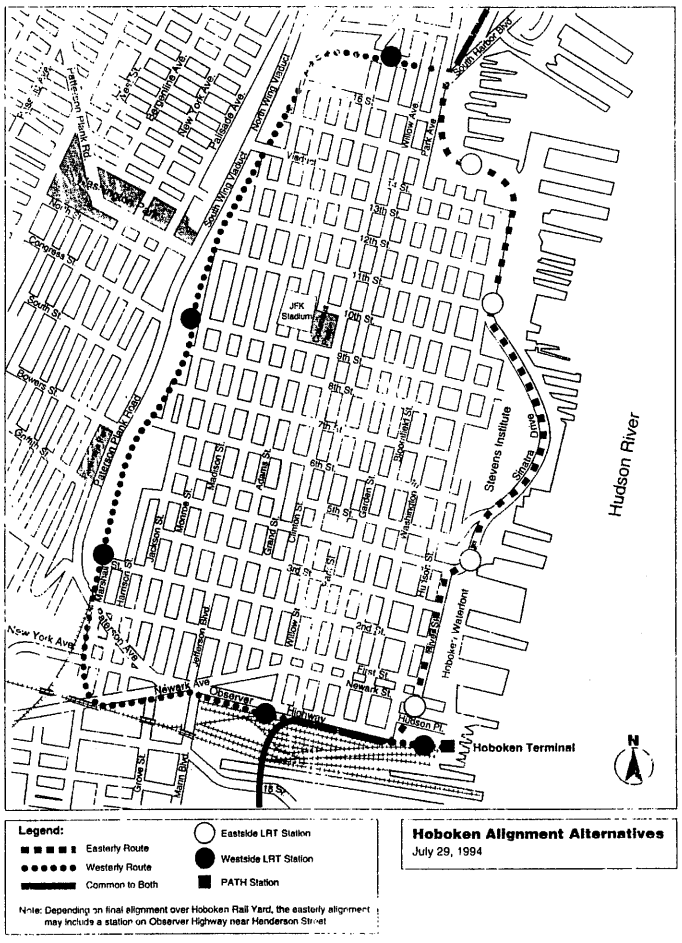
RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

UPDATE: Light Rail Transit

As the plans for the final light rail transit (LRT) system alignments and station locations are being "hotly" debated for Downtown Jersey City, it is important to remember that another transit debate is occurring that will effect the Heights community more directly. This debate is for the alignment of the light rail system through the City of Hoboken.

There are two options that are being discussed. (A drawing of the two options is presented below.) The two alignment options are a route along the east, near the Hudson River Waterfront and an alignment on the western edge of Hoboken, generally along the Conrail

(continued on page 2)



MEETING MINUTES

The September 13th meeting of RNA had guest speakers Council President Tom DeGise and Ward C Councilperson Nancy Gaynor. They spoke on several projects of interest to RNA:

a) REOPENING MOUNTAIN ROAD: An RFP (Request for Proposals) for surveyors has been issued for the renovation of Mountain Road. A flyover for aerial photographs of the road has been scheduled, and construction should begin within a year (design by early spring). The funding for the project is $275,000.

b) SGT. ANTHONY PARK RENOVATION: Two bids were submitted for development of Sgt Anthony Park on Palisade Avenue, and City Council was to vote to award to the low bidder (Heritage Construction Service) the next day. Groundbreaking is scheduled for October, and winter weather permitting, the park could be in use by late spring.

c) CONSTRUCTION OF CUNEO PARK: The planning for the Cuneo Place park is nearly complete, with one outstanding issue to be resolved: lighting. Noting that two existing "sports lights," one on Ogden Avenue and one on Cuneo Place, presently point into the lot, it was proposed that these two lights, and an additional sports light to be installed at the cliff edge, might be sufficient, given that the park is to be closed and locked at night. No alternative lighting schemes were presented. It was stressed that the city would be willing to put fancier lighting in the park, but that any alternative lighting design would delay the project.

(continued on page 2)

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING:

Tuesday, October 11 AT 7:15 PM

AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

DISCUSSION: UPCOMING FALL ACTIVITIES

Saturday, November 5, at 11 AM:

Ted Conrad Dedication in Riverview-Fisk Park

Meeting Minutes (cont. from page 1)

The issue of opening and closing the park was discussed. Christ Hospital has offered to close that park at night, with the suggestion that for the first month or two, Christ Hospital security would be accompanied by Jersey City police, to establish authority. The opening of the park would be done by RNA members.

Several immediate neighbors of the proposed park voiced concerns, and were against the park. Concerns included: neighbors were not informed or consulted about the decision to put a park at that location [the issue has been discussed at RNA meetings and in the RNA newsletter for a year or more]; concerns that crime and drug use in the area will move into the park; that the ground is sinking on that lot; that the existing lighting switches on & off throughout the night, and thus the lot is not always lit; that the fence is easy to scale or slip through.

In order to name the park for Janet Moore, City Council must pass a resolution to that effect. Biographical information is needed to support this resolution.

A motion was passed to approve the proposed three-light plan, with the provision that such lighting be lit continuously from dusk to dawn.

RNA was to send a letter stating its approval of the lighting plan to Councilperson Gaynor; Gaynor was to respond to the RNA concerns about (1) the dusk-to-dawn nature of the lighting, (2) land sinking on the lot, and (3) a discrepancy noted between the existing fence and the fence as shown on the park plans.

In a question / answer session, the following issues were brought to the council members' attention:

1) lack of painted cross walks at intersections.

2) fencing is needed along the cliff top at the south end of Ogden; it was suggested that a motion sensing light be installed for the area protected by this fence.

3) Holland Street needs "No dumping" signs, and should be regularly cleaned by the city [Tom DeGise says the City is cutting back street cleaning on the Western Slope to one day a week, and plans to use the manpower to address problem areas such as this].

4) lack of city response to calls about tall weeds, trash, etc.

5) a boarded up property at 381 Ogden Avenue.

The RNA treasury had a balance of $1,525.70, and a new account for the park fund was opened with $120.00.

A motion was passed to limit to 60 days from purchase the amount of time to submit expenses to the RNA executive committee.

Another motion was passed to change the schedule of community-use dumpsters. RNA will now arrange for two dumpsters on each of four occasions throughout the year. The locations will rotate among the several cross streets within the RNA boundaries.

A motion was passed to make a contribution to the Home Opera Company in Union City, in honor of Ted Conrad. This was one of his favorite cultural organizations.

Volunteers are needed for the fall party for the residents of Harbor View Health Care Center. The date for this party will be set in cooperation with the Center Director at the October meeting.

Bring toys and non-perishable food to the RNA meetings for our holiday drive. Food items should be canned or dried. Donations will be turned over to the Salvation Army for distribution.

A date will be set at the October meeting for our annual neighborhood holiday carolling.

The executive committee sent flowers to Mrs. Tuzzo, who is in the hospital again. Cards can be sent to Mrs. Tuzzo's home at 170 Ogden.

The fall flea market committee reported that many tables have been sold for the event, but not food vendors. Arrangements for a port-a-john have been made. There will be no raffle or 50/50. Entertainment will include a Tai Chi demonstration, magician, folk band, poetry & prose readings, and a band of neighborhood musicians.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (cont. from page 1)

River Line. (The Conrail River Line are the tracks at the bottom of the Palisades - directly below our own neighborhood.)

Each alignment has a station at Hoboken Terminal. Each of these alignment choices proceed from a point in the south to north after either crossing over or passing the Hoboken Rail Yard in the vicinity of Marin Boulevard. Briefings have been held with Hoboken's Council and Mayor, the Hoboken Waterfront Development Corporation, the Coalition for a Better Waterfront and the Hoboken Environment Committee. Some of the concerns about the easterly alignment dealt with the effect of the LRT on automobile traffic and the potential impact on parklands, on-street parking, the Castle Point cliffs, and key waterfront properties necessary for the LRT right-of-way. The primary concern with the westerly alignment was that, due to the alignment's physical location on the periphery rather than in or near the City's Center, the LRT does less to serve Hoboken residents.

[On page 3, there is a chart of the Hoboken Alignment options prepared by NJ Transit Waterfront Transportation Division. For more information, call 714-4700.]

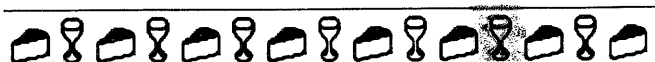
It is important to realize that the westerly alignment would be more beneficial to the Heights community and Union City above the Palisades because it would be closer and more convenient to utilize as mass transit. It can also help revitalize the western side of Hoboken, which is primarily made up of the Hoboken Housing Projects, industrial lands and ungentrified residential neighborhoods. Therefore it seems that the placement of the LRT along the Palisades would help Jersey City Heights, Union City and Hoboken. In contrast, the easterly option would just exasperate an already overdeveloped and congested area of Hoboken.

Of course, with a westerly alignment, there is the need for access to the LRT stations located along the Palisades. There would have to be a series of stairs or escalators to transport people to and from the Heights and Union City to the LRT below.

Hoboken Alignment Characteristics and Findings

	East Side	West Side	Comments
Alignment			
• Description	see map	see map	
• Length (Hoboken Term.–Lincoln Hrbr.)	14,600 feet	16,855 feet	Does not include common segments.
• Station Locations (not including Hoboken Term.)	• 5th Street (@ Sinatra Drive) • 11th Street (@ Hudson St.) • 15th Street (@ Washington Street Extended)	• Observer Highway & Henderson Street • 2nd Street • 9th Street • 17th St. (@ Clinton Ave.)	East Side may include a station on Observer Hwy. near Henderson Street, depending on the selected crossing option of the Hoboken Yard.
Capital Cost			
• Hoboken Term. to Lincoln Hrbr.	approx. $100 million	approx. $100 million	
Ridership			
• Within Hoboken	3,600 – 4,000	4,800	The differences between alignments do not appear to be substantial; East Side does not include ridership generated by Observer Hwy. station.
• Through Hoboken (Hoboken Term.–Lincoln Hrbr.)	9,800 – 11,600	10,800 – 12,900	
Trip Time			
• Hoboken Term. to Lincoln Hrbr.	10 minutes	8 minutes	Time includes delays due to traffic signals and alignment geometry.
Operational Reliability			
• Grade Crossings/Intersections	eleven	three	
Potential Development within 1/4 Mile of Stations			
• Commercial (office and retail)	1.0 million square feet	minimal	East Side: Approximate projection based on combined 2010 developer estimates & development guidelines; the same criteria are used for residential development. West Side: Greater potential for light industry and research development.
• Residential	5,000 persons	400 persons	
• Light Industrial & Research	possible	probable	
Traffic Impact			
• Significant Circulation Changes	• Closing of River St. between Hudson Pl. and Newark St. • 5th St. connection to Sinatra Dr. would be closed. • One-way northbound only on Hudson St. north of 11th St.	none	East Side: Requires circulation changes to Hudson St. and Newark St.; closes 5th St. between River St. & Sinatra Drive; diverts southbound traffic to alternative routes.
• LOS Degradations (below LOS C)	two	none	LOS impacts can be mitigated by striping/signal timing adjustments.
Parking Loss			
• On Street	128 spaces	none	Includes parking loss due to LRT ROW requirements & rerouting of traffic on Hudson and Newark Sts.
• Off Street	150 spaces	none	
Environmental Impact			
• Proposed North Park	Taking of 0.3 acre	n/a	East Side: Proposed soccer field would be retained. East Side: Cliff at Castle Point will be altered for a length of 1,400 ft; will require a retaining wall, ranging in height from 2 to 10 ft. set into the rock no more than 10 ft.
• Castle Point	Excavation of some rock required	n/a	
• Palisades	n/a	minimal	
Property Takings			
• Business Displacements	three	four	
• Major Takings	• Portion of one Maxwell House office building at 11th St. • Approx. 0.6 acre of Hoboken Piers property at 4th St.	none	
Hoboken Terminal			
• Station Location	LRT station would be located on River St. between Hudson Pl. and Newark St.; relocation of bus operations to the old ferry slip area would be desirable.	LRT station would be just north of train shed, either elevated or at grade, depending on the location of the bus terminal.	

The westerly alignment would allow our Heights community to be part of and take advantage of this modern mass transit system. It will allow the Heights to be better integrated into Hudson County as we enter the 21st century.



Harborview Holiday Party

It is that time of year again, when RNA organizes our annual Holiday party for the residents of Harborview. We serve cake and soft drinks after their regular lunch. We also provide entertainment. The tentative date for the party is **Friday, November 18, 1994**.

RNA is looking for volunteers to help cater the party. We will need sugar-free baked goods, such as cookies and cake. These items can be dropped off at 220 Ogden Avenue the night before or at the Harborview the day of the party.

RNA is also asking for donations of complementary toilet articles - men's and women's - to make up baskets for the residents. Please contribute in any way you can - volunteering time, baked goods or gifts - for this worthy cause. It is RNA's way of thanking our neighbors at Harborview for letting us hold our meetings in their house.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

As the fall season approaches, RNA is planning its other annual festivities for the holidays.

First, there is our annual **FOOD AND TOY DRIVE** for all the unfortunate families that are not able to enjoy the holidays as we do. Starting at our October meeting, RNA is asking all its members, neighbors and friends to contribute to this worthy cause. We are looking for all kinds of dry or canned foodstuffs. In addition, we are looking for contributions of new or used toys (they must be in working condition) to give to children.

We will collect the food and toys during the months of October, November, and December. All the items are then given to the local Salvation Army for distribution to all those families that need them.

Please give from your heart and help someone this year. Food and toys will be collected at the next three RNA monthly meetings or they can be dropped off at **170 Ogden Avenue**. Please call Maria at **659-2245, after 6 PM** to arrange for the drop-off.

RNA will be holding its annual **HOLIDAY PARTY** at its December 13th meeting. All our members, neighbors and friends are invited to toast the holidays with RNA. Practically no business will be discussed - at least as little as possible. This is the time to just enjoy each other's company. To make this party a success, RNA asks all those who are planning to attend to bring some holiday treat (preferably home-made) or softdrink to share with RNA.

Each year, RNA also organizes a **Xmas caroling** through the neighborhood. We usually gather a group of ten or more stout-hearted souls to sing holiday songs on our streets. The exact date will be set at the October meeting, but it will be during the month of December. Start rehearsing your singing!

In Memory of a Great Man

This past month, Ted Conrad was finally being remembered for his many acts of civic activism. On Tuesday, September 20, 1994, his family and friends organized a memorial service, entitled "A Remembrance of His Life and Work". Over one hundred people gathered together in the Rotunda of the Hudson County Courthouse to honor Ted's memory.

There were speeches, recollections and song made by Ted's friends and family. Rev. George Swanson made the invocation. County Executive Robert Janiszewski and Mayor Bret Schundler thanked Ted for his many contributions to our community, especially the saving of the Courthouse. Ruth Elsasser and Helen Manogue recounted Ted's efforts to improve the environment. Colin Egan and Walter Syrek told of Ted's fight for the Loew's Theatre. Ted's granddaughter, Michelle remembered her grandfather, "Opie."

Two days later, on Thursday, September 22, 1994, the Hudson County Freeholders voted to dedicate and rename the Courthouse Rotunda in honor of Ted.

On Saturday, November 5, 1994, RNA and Jersey City will dedicate Riverview-Fisk Park to Ted Conrad. There will be a ceremony to install the plaque that was given to Ted at the City Council's dedication in February, 1994. The plaque will be mounted on a granite cornerstone and placed in the Park's centergarden. **The ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM.**

Finally, at the September meeting, RNA voted to send a contribution in honor of Ted to the Family Opera. This was one of his favorite cultural organizations where you could enjoy an professional opera performed by local artists. Anyone interested in making a contribution in Ted's name, should send it to :

Family Opera
c/o Josephine Ruffino, President
P.O. Box 7234
North Bergen, New Jersey 07047.

Thoughts of Ted

I just heard the sad news that Ted Conrad just passed away. Please accept my condolences on the loss of your good friend. He was an institution to Jersey City and an inspiration to us all.

I have recently been appointed to the Ellis Island Commission and we were talking about the need for research on Ellis Island and Jersey City's history. At our meeting we were talking about Ted and how great it would be to be able to sit down and speak with him on the subject. He has always been in our thoughts and I will truly miss him.

Joan Young, mayoral aide

THANK YOU

To all my neighbors and friends, thank you for all the cards and calls throughout the last months of Ted's sickness and after his passing. He used to look forward to Catherine's weekly visits, as well as Vito's toward the end.

It will seem strange not to see him sitting in the front row of the RNA meetings anymore. Even when he was hardly able to move anymore, we had a hard time keeping him home the second Tuesday of the month. He made sure that I went, so I could report to him what was going on in the neighborhood.

To those of you who came to the memorial at the Courthouse, mine and the girls thanks for being there. The affair that the Save the Loew's group arranged was beautiful and he would have enjoyed every minute of it.

The night of the memorial, County Executive Janiszewski announced that the Freeholders were planning to name the Rotunda of the Courthouse "The Ted Conrad Memorial Rotunda." Nobody expected any fact action. You will be surprised to hear that it has happened already. As of September 22, 1994, the Rotunda has his name.

We are all very happy ad proud for Ted and only wish that it could have happened during his lifetime. But at least this way he will be alive in the building he loved the most, as long as it is standing.

Ruth Conrad

Park Update : Cuneo Place Park

(The following is a letter, dated September 16, 1994, from Councilwoman Nancy Gaynor in response to our discussion about the Cuneo Park construction at the September RNA meeting.)

I spoke to Robert Cerchio, City Architect concerning the stability of the land at Cuneo Park, He informed me that a previous developer who had intentions of building on this property brought the land down to subgrade (which is the level needed for improvements). There is no problem as far as sinking is concerned.

The fencing will extend around the entire park including the area by the building where a wooden fence exists.

Rodney Hadley, who is in charge of lighting, will call Public Service concerning the lighting system that shuts off at night. He said this should not happen. These lights are dusk to dawn.

I also spoke to Kevin Sluka [Director of Department of Public Works], concerning the repairing of the fence overlooking the cliff. He was under the impression it had been repaired. Repair work should be completed by the time this letter is received.

POLICE BEAT:

Community Service Police Officers Andrew Lancellotti and John Curtis request that any citizen that has a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity, should contact them at **547-5350** (to leave a message for them at the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (to leave a message on their voice mail). They usually respond to these messages on a daily basis. When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and a date and time of the message. All calls will be kept confidential.

NIGHT BICYCLE RIDING? SEE THE LIGHT!

(The following article is from the first edition of a periodic newsletter called CRANK, published by the SDS BIKE SHOP, located at 351 Palisade Avenue. For more information, call Tony Scarpa at 656-5472.)

Now that October is upon us the days will soon be getting shorter and the nights longer, giving rise to the lovers of night bicycle riding. Night riding if you haven't experienced it for yourself, has a completely different feel. It's more quiet, the air a little cooler, and above everything else IT'S DARK!

When it gets dark, things become a bit more difficult to see, especially if it's traveling fast. That is why it behooves you to have the proper night riding equipment. The lights on your bicycle not only aid in your ability to see the road but also aid the unsuspecting motorist to see you. Reflectors alone aren't going to be enough because reflectors only reflect light that is hitting them, like headlights of a car. A self generated light source will be seen from a much further distance.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR NIGHT RIDING

According to the Motor Vehicle Department, a ride during twilight or at night is11-20 times more risky than daylight riding. Up to 80 percent of bicyclists hurt at night were not seen by motorists in time to avoid the collision. If riding at night, you should do the following:

a) Use both a front white light, and a red rear light. These should be used in addition to reflectors. If you use a generator light, know that these do not work when you are not moving.
b) Use retro-reflective clothing. The motorist needs to see your body. Often, items such as a red reflector are confused with other red reflectors, such as those on a car or truck.

In New Jersey, every bicycle in use at night is equipped with a light on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front, and a light on the rear that emits a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. In addition to the light, a red reflector should be mounted on the rear that is visible from 300 to 500 feet when a motor vehicle's upper headlights shine on it.

In summary, if you must ride during dawn, dusk, or night, you need to do the following:

1) Use a front white light.
2) Use a red rear light.
3) Use retro-reflective clothing or light colored clothing to make you visible to others.
4. Use any materials that help identify you as a bicyclist, such as a leg light, fanny bumper, etc.

Please Recycle This Newsletter.

➡ Pass it on to a Neighbor.

Bulletin board

WELCOME

Robin, Bill and Emily Petrick are happy to announce that Sarah Rose was born on August 25, 1994 weighing eight pounds, seven ounces.

RNA welcomes a new neighbor to our community!

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Peanut Butter Balls

This is a great Halloween treat. It's easy to make and fun to eat.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Box and 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar
- 2 Cups of creamy peanut butter
- 2 Sticks of margarine (softened)
- 2 very large Hershey Bars

1) Mix margarine, peanut butter and powdered sugar until creamy.
2) Roll into balls and place on cookie sheet lined with wax paper.
3) Cover with wax paper and refrigerate overnight.
4) Melt chocolate in double boiler.
5) With a fork, dip balls into chocolate and return to cookie sheet until dry.
6) Refrigerate again.
7) Place finished balls in candy papers.

OCTOBER

The leaves on the trees
are turning to beautiful fall colors.
The frost is on the pumpkin.
Trick or Treaters ringing doorbells.
RNA Octoberfest is here.
Happy Halloween to all!

Madeline Rea

MY EXPERIENCES: Uncle Chocolate

When I was growing up in Hoboken, I lived with my mother and father in one part of town. My aunt and father's sister lived in another section.

My father also had a brother who lived in New York and came to visit every so often. He always seemed to come right around our evening meal. He would first go to his sister's house and lift the lids from the food that was cooking on the stove. He would then come to my mother's house and do the same thing. He would stay at the house who had the best meal.

Then he would pull from his vest pocket, chocolate bars and pass them around to the kids. This is how he was nicknamed Uncle Chocolate. To this day, my cousins and I talk about Uncle Chocolate. We will never forget him.

Jack F. Rea

Get Well Wishes to

Mrs. Marie Tuzzo and Frances Santoro.

Art Classes

Jersey City Museum is scheduling **drawing classes**, entitled "Drawing to Remember" during the month of October. They will be held on Saturdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. The classes will include relaxation exercises for apprehensive would-be sketchers. The fee for these classes is $30 ($25 for Museum members).

The Museum is also holding **knitting classes** during October. Classes will meet Saturdays, Oct. 15, 22, 29 and November 5 at 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Beginners are invited to a special class on Saturday, October 1. The fee is $30 for four sessions or $35 for five sessions.

Preregistration is required. Call 547-4380.

[If any local artists would like to advertise their upcoming shows or exhibitions, please submit the information at least one month in advance to RNA for publication in our newsletter.]

Join RNA & Get Involved

Keeping a neighborhood association functioning requires the active participation of its members. Annual membership dues are $5 per person - which entitles you to nine issues of our newsletter, and voting privileges in RNA, if you live within the boundaries. Bring your dues to the next meeting, or make your check payable to RNA and mail it to 232 Ogden Avenue. RNA appreciates your support!

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is always soliciting material for the RNA newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers want to discuss. Would you like to complain about or praise something? How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe to share with us. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off contributions at 170 Ogden Ave. or in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." The next deadline is October 21, 1994.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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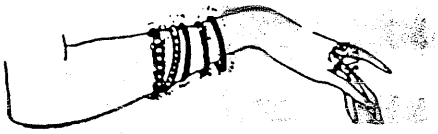

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COME TO OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11th at 7:15 PM

RNA

COMMITTEES:

Vito Brunetti *Chairperson*	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Greg Brickey *Vice-chairperson*	PARKS
Kathy Packard *Secretary*	FLEA MARKET
Jack Rea *Treasurer*	NEWSLETTER
Carol Rebelowski *Sgt. at Arms*	

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

FREE BIODEGRADABLE BROWN BAGS

The Jersey City Incinerator Authority is giving away biodegradable brown bags for **residential leaf collection** again this year. They are available at the JCIA office at 501 Route 440, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, 9 AM to 3 PM. The telephone number is 432-4645 ext. 36.

RNA will also be giving out these bags at its October 11th meeting.

Be environmentally minded. Bag your leaves and have Jersey City recycle them.